(e) Super Bazar has reported that a full-time Chief Vigilance Officer has been appointed to revamp its Vigilance Division.

Commodities supplied through PDS

7316. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) which are the essential commodities which are distributed through Public Distribution System;

(b) whether Government will consider bringing some more items, like pulses and edible oil other than 'Palm Oil' for the distribution through Public Distribution System to bring down the prices;

(c) what steps Government propose to take to check the arbitrary pricing of essential commodities by traders; and

(d) whether Government are aware that there is more than 40% to 50% difference in prices between wholesale and retail price of essential commodities and if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) The Central Government makes bulk allocation of key essential commodities such as rice, wheat, levy sugar, imported edible oil, kerosene and soft coke to States/UTs for distributilon to consumers through the Public Distribution System (PDS). State Governments/UT Administrations have been requested to include on their own additional items of mass consumption taking into account local needs and preferences of consumers. Many State Governments have reported that items such as pulses, iodised salt, soaps and tea are being distributed to the consumers through Fair Price Shops, especially in the areas covered under the Revamped PDS. There is no proposal under consideration of the Central Government to add pulses and edible oils other than Palmolein to the list of commodities allocated to States/ UTs for the PDS.

(c) and (d) State Governments UT Administrations have been delegated powers to enforce the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and the Prevention of Block marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act State Governments/UT Administrations take measures to prevent and bring to book unscrupulous traders indulging in unfair trade practice including arbitrary pricing of essential commodities. The Central Government have advised States/ UTs to enforce the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act selectively but effectively against hoarders and blackmarketeers. The implementation of essential commodities regulations are regularly reviewed in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations. Wholesale and retail prices of select essential commodities are monitored by the State and Central Governments on a regular basis. Based on the wholesale and retail price information furnished by State Goverianments/UT Administrations, the varition between wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities is not of the order mentioned.

Retail prices of various essential commodities in Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar

7317. SHRI MD. SALIM : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what were the retail ... of various essential commodities

Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar in Delhi during April 1991, April 1992, April 1993 and April 1994;

(b) whether there is any rise in the prices of these commodities during the last three years;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it is not against the spirit of the election manifesto, 1994, of the ruling party at the centre ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Statements showing retail prices of 10 essential commodities in Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar are at Statement I & II respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) These organisations sell the goods after adding a nominal margin to the cost price. The selling price of goods have increased due to the increase in the cost of procurement.

(d) There is no election manifesto, 1994, of the ruling party at the Centre.

Statement-I

Retail prices of essential commodities in Super Bazar

S. No.	Item	Selling price			
		1-4-91	1-4-92	1-4-93	1-4-94
1	Atta 10 Kg.	38.00	45.00	46.50	54.50
2	Rice Permal P. Kg.	5.10	6.60	7.25	7.95
3	Sugar Per Kg.	9.00	9.40	11.30	14.45
4	Gram Dal P. Kg.	9.35	9.60	11.20	15.60
5	Arhar Dal P. Kg.	13.90	15.45	14.70	15.95
6	Droundnut Oil DRO 5 Ltrs.	286.75	295.10	226.20	247.45
7	Mustard Oil 1 Kg. Kanodia	41.25	41.00	37.50	43.00
8	Vanaspati Rath 1 Kg. Pouch	36.80	36.35	31.40	35.10
9	Tea B.B. Red Label 500 Kg.	33.15	31.40	41.95	41.50
10	Salt Tata P. Kg.	1.85	3.00	3.40	3.40

Statement-II

Selling prices of Essential Commodities at the end of each month in Kendriya Bhandar

S. No.	Items	April '91	April '92	April '93	April '94
1	Rice Permal	5.50	6.45	6.80	7.80
2	Sugar	9.30	9.40	11.10	14.20
3	Dal Chana	9.00	9.25	10.50	15.10
4	Dal Arhar	13.10	15.00	14.00	15.40
5	Rath 1 kg. pouch	34.95	40.50	32.95	39.00
6	Hafed M/Oil 1 kg./Ltr.	38.00	41.00	35 80	43.00
7	Atta	41.50	45.00	46.00	50.00
8	Salt 1 Kg.	1.85	2.95	3 30	3.30
9	Brook Bond Tea 500 Kgs.	30.90	31.40	41.95	41.00
10	Lux Toilet Soap	4 50	4.80	5.35	5.75

Complaints regarding inadequate functioning of the PDS

7318. SHRI JAGMOHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a number of complaints about the inadequate functioning of the Public Distribution System, particularly in the rural areas;

(b) if so, what corrective measures have been taken in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal to make available essential drugs to the needy poors through this system; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The operational responsibility for implementing the Public Distribution System (PDS) is that of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations which include sub-allocation of PDS items to different districts, opening of fair price shops, eligibility criteria, supervision and control over the fair price shops and its functioning. State Governments/UT Administrations have been delegated powers under the Essential Commodities Act for effective implementation of PDS by taking action against unscrupulous elements indulging in unfair trade practices. Most State Governments/UT Administrations have been taking action under the Essential Commodities Act in this regard. In an operation of such a magnitude involving distribution of million tonnes of PDS commodities few short comings, here and there in the functioning of PDS cannot altogether be ruled out. Regular consultation between the Central and State Governments take place with a view to improve the effective functioning of the PDS.

(c) and (d) State Governments/ UT Administrations were requested